

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-8, and 11 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 2-5 and 9-10 have been cancelled in this or a previous amendment. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims in this or a subsequent application. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in original claims 3 and 4 and in the specification at page 7. Claim 11 has been amended to merely remove reference to cancelled claims 2-5. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment.

The claims, as amended, provide controlled drug release systems for retinoic acid and pharmaceutical compositions comprising same. More particularly, the controlled drug release systems provided by the invention are characterized in that retinoic acid is incorporated into a microsphere prepared by mixing a biodegradable polymer, which is selected from the group consisting of poly-*L*-lactic acid, poly-*D,L*-lactic acid and poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid), and an amphiphilic AB type di-block copolymer, which is poly-*L*-lactic acid-polyethyleneglycol or poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid)-polyethyleneglycol, together, wherein the retinoic acid is selected from the group consisting of all-trans-retinoic acid, 13-cis-retinoic acid, 9-cis-retinoic acid, other retinoids and the mixture thereof, and the mixing ratio of the biodegradable polymer and the amphiphilic block copolymer is 1:0-20% by weight.

None of the references cited by the Examiner, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Thus, the rejections of the claims under §103 should be withdrawn.

In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

It is believed the application is in a condition for immediate allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JB Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

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